

Appl. No. 10/606,086  
Amdt. dated Feb. 28, 2008  
Reply to Office action of Nov. 28, 2007

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants sincerely appreciate the courtesy extended by Examiner Misiaszek during the telephone interview conducted on November 15, 2007. Pursuant to the discussion during the interview, method claim 14, the only remaining pending independent claim, has been amended. More specifically, claim 14 has been amended to include a number of steps involving the affiliates, which clearly distinguish the cited references, such as the box offices of Francis U.S. 2004/0111303 and Harmon U.S. 2003/0236736, as well as the user communication devices 20 and the ticket issuer computers 30 of Joao U.S. 2002/0128922.

Still further, method claim 14 has been amended to include a number of steps pertaining to the different operating modes of the affiliates and conducting transactions. First of all, affiliates can conduct transactions, such as buying and selling goods and services, electronically on their own affiliate computers. The affiliates can "share" goods or services with other affiliates, for example, by specifying transaction conditions. Secondly, information concerning the availability of goods and services can be loaded into the central exchange and matched with purchase requests. Finally, goods and services can be posted to the central exchange by an affiliate logging onto a special order system thereof and manually posting such goods and services. All of these steps are reflected in amended claim 14.

Such transactional flexibility, utilizing transaction conditions as claimed, is not disclosed by any of the references of record, which, in fact, teach away from the claimed method. Real-time, interactive transactions are accomplished by the invention of method claim 14, as amended. Thus, transactional data is provided interactively to the affiliates.

Based on the foregoing, claim 14 is in condition for allowance. The remaining claims depend from claim 14. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if prosecution of this application can be expedited thereby.

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Substance of the November 15, 2007 Interview

1. No exhibits were shown or demonstrations conducted.
2. Claims 1 and 14 were discussed.
3. Francis U.S. 2004/0111303 and Harmon U.S. 2003/0236736 were discussed.
4. The principle proposed amendments of a substantive nature are reflected in the Interview Summary.
5. The general thrust of the principal arguments was that the affiliates are distinguishable from "box offices" and other remote user terminals shown in the prior art. In particular, the method of conducting transactions among the affiliates according to several different transactional procedures, which are addressed by the steps of the amended method claim 14, provides significant advantages and distinguishes over the prior art references of record.
6. No other pertinent matters were discussed.

I hereby certify that this paper is being filed by  
facsimile transmission (571-273-8300) with the  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Date of fax transmission: February 28, 2008

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Respectfully Submitted,

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